



Attorney Docket No.: 08855-00009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : David J. Houston, et al  
Serial No. : 10/707,831  
Filed : 01-15-2004  
Title : Ball Return Device

Art Unit :  
Examiner :

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

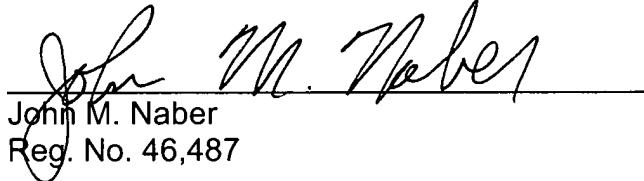
**FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Applicant submits the references listed on the attached forms PTO/SB/08A, copies of which are enclosed.

This statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or before the receipt of a first Office Action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 17 Jan 2004

  
John M. Naber  
Reg. No. 46,487

Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.  
313 South Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Telephone: (517) 371-8293  
Facsimile: (517) 367-7393

**Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail**

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit: 1-20-04

Signature:   
Lorri A. Rosier



JAN 23 2004

PTO/SB/08A (02-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

~~Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.~~

~~Substitute for form 1449/PTO~~

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/707,831
Filing Date	01-15-2004
First Named Inventor	David J. Houston
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	08855-00009

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

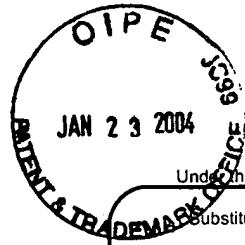
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		DE3413247	08-01-1985	Haak		
		JP10192469	07-28-1998	Fuitsuto, et al		
		WO9408666	04-28-1994	Newgarden		
		FR2776935	10-08-1999	Seegner		
		WO9009216	08-23-1990	Blindheim		
		JP11239626	09-07-1999	Tsukamoto		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	-
-----------------------	--	--------------------	---

<sup>1</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.<sup>2</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).<sup>3</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.<sup>4</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).<sup>5</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.<sup>6</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.<sup>7</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.



JAN 23 2004

PTO/SB/08A (02-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

Approved for use through 3-14-2003. GMS 5051-003  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

~~Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.~~

~~85~~ Substitute for form 1449/PTO

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

**(Use as many sheets as necessary)**

Sheet 2 of 2

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/707,831
Filing Date	01-15-2004
First Named Inventor	David J. Houston
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	08855-00009

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		FR2637811	04-20-1990	Vidal		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

<sup>1</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>2</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>3</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>4</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>5</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>6</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>7</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.



Attorney Docket No.: 08855-00009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : David J. Houston, et al  
Serial No. : 10/707,831  
Filed : 01-15-2004  
Title : Ball Return Device

Art Unit :  
Examiner :

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

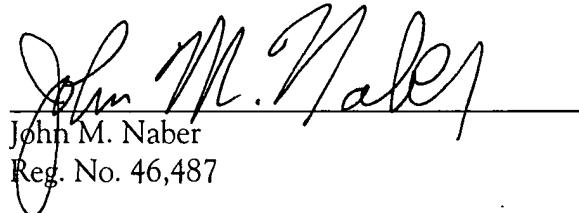
Correspondence relating to this application is enclosed.

1. First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (1 page);
2. Forms PTO/SB/08A (2 pages); and
3. Seven (7) cited references.

Please date stamp the enclosed postcard and return to my attention.

Respectfully submitted,

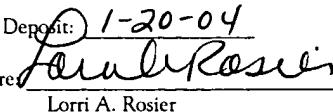
Date: 17 Jan 2004

  
John M. Naber  
Reg. No. 46,487

Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.  
313 South Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Telephone: (517) 371-8293  
Facsimile: (517) 367-7393

Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail

I hereby certify under 37 CFR § 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit: 1-20-04  
Signature:   
Lorri A. Rosier